(a) whether it is a fact that in spite of all the efforts of the Department of Company Affairs there is no whereabouts of the companies who have embezzled 65 crores and 63 lakhs of rupees of the investors;

(b) if so, the steps taken by Government to return the bad debt amount of investors; and

(c) the details in this regard?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI BALASAHEB VIKHE PATIL) : (a) to (c) The required information is being collected and will be laid on the Table of the House.

Steps for controlling corruption

2335. SHRI SURESH PACHOURI : Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state :

(a) whether Government propose to take some concrete steps to control the menace of corruption, especially in the Excise, Customs and Income-tax Services whose large number of officers have been suspended recently on such charges; and

(b) if so, the details of the measures contemplated in this regard?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI GINGEE N. RAMACHANDRAN) : (a) and (b) Sir, the following steps are being taken/have been taken to check corruption :—

Vigilance set up in Central Board of Excise and Customs and Central Board of Direct Taxes are being strengthened. Directorate of Income-tax (Vigilance) has been strengthened by upgrading to the level of Directorate General of Income-tax (Vigilance) and four Regional Directorates of Income-tax (Vigilance) have been created. Use of information technology is being encouraged with a view to reduce the interface of the public with the Customs Officers. Instructions have been issued to the field formations of the Central Board of Excise and Customs to tighten vigilance machinery, to post officers of integrity and efficiency in vigilance organisation, not to give sensitive postings to officers of doubtful integrity and who have been charge-sheeted for major penalty and penalised and to keep a watch on the life-style of the officers, etc.